

NOV 21 1962

Sanitized - Approved For Release : CIA

CPYRGHT

FOIAb3b

CPYRGHT

## Cuban Prisoner Deal Is Near, Says Donovan

NEW YORK, Nov. 20 (UPI) — Attorney James B. Donovan, who has been negotiating the release of 113 Bay of Pigs invasion prisoners held in Cuba by Fidel Castro, said today an agreement had been reached with the Cuban Government to exchange food and medicine worth \$62-million for the captives.

Donovan said, however, that the execution of the agreement could not take place until the "green light" was given by the U. S. Government and Castro.

"We can carry out what I agreed on in a manner consistent with the national policy of the United States,"

He told a news conference. "If Castro said 'okay' tomorrow' the deal could be completed in 10 days."

Alvaro Sanchez Jr., a Cuban exile who returned yesterday from negotiations in Havana, said the morale of the prisoners was high. He said he visited 32 of the prisoners while in Havana.

Sanchez and Mrs. Betta Barreto who went to Havana with him met with Donovan yesterday.

Sanchez is chairman of the Cuban Families Committee for Liberation of Prisoners of War and Mrs. Barreto is the group's coordinator in Havana.